



42004-0003

Abstract

Methods, interfaces and devices for specifying a software process in a two dimensional diagrammatic framework. The major elements of this framework are software objects, operations on these objects, data flow and interaction operations between these objects, parameter specifications and a control flow context for these operations (samples of how these are represented in diagrams are shown in Figure 1 - which shows how a process can be specified that counts and sums the numbers within a file and writes the average to the system console). Objects are shown as elongated shapes that extend across a horizontal direction. The horizontal elongation of these shapes allows summary information to be recorded within the shape - information such as the object's type or class, a reference label or name for the object, a textual comment and lists of the object's fields and methods.